



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

COMMISSION CIRCULAR NO. 04/2020

No. 20, Ward Place,
Colombo 07.

August 10th, 2020

Vice Chancellors of Universities
Rectors of Campuses
Directors of Institutes

COMPLAINTS ON RAGGING AND SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV) MADE BY STUDENTS AND STAFF MEMBERS TO THE UNIVERSITIES/ CAMPUSES/ INSTITUTES

One of the most fundamental problems affecting universities is violence including ragging and sexual and gender-based violence, as a result of which thousands of new entrants in state universities are harassed, bullied, and abused by their seniors. The ritual of ragging imposes a culture of servility, submission, and compliance. Many students unable to cope with the violence give up their dreams of higher education, while some have even committed suicide. Even sometimes not only the students but also the staff members are sexually harassed which cause for lifelong sufferings for them being a victim of a sexual harassment. Many of these incidents are underreported and perpetrators are not penalized. Various ad-hoc measures have been attempted by universities with different levels of success, but have failed to create a positive and sustained organizational culture that is zero tolerant of violence.

Therefore with the intention of creating safe and conducive environment in the state universities, the Commission at its 1032nd meeting held on 11th June 2020 decided to instruct the Universities, Campuses and Institutes to submit the complaints made by students and staff members on ragging and sexual and gender-based violence to the UGC.

Hence, you are requested to send the complaints on ragging and sexual and gender-based violence received by your Institution together with the immediate actions taken for such complaints to reach the Chairman/ UGC within 7 days after receiving those complaints to your Institution.

Please take action accordingly.

Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge
Chairman

- Copies:
1. Secretary/ Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovations
 2. Chairman's Office/UGC
 3. Vice-Chairperson/UGC
 4. Members of the UGC
 5. Secretary/UGC
 6. Registrars of Universities
 7. Deans of Faculties
 8. Accountant/UGC
 9. Bursars of Universities
 10. Librarians/SAL/AL of the Higher Educational Institutions /Institutes
 11. Deputy Registrars/ Snr. Asst. Registrars/Asst. Registrars of Campuses/Institutes
 12. Deputy Bursars/Snr. Asst. Bursars/ Asst. Bursars of Campuses/Institutes
 13. Internal Auditor/UGC

14. Govt. Audit Superintendents of Universities
15. Snr. Asst. Int. Auditors of HEIs
16. Secretaries of Trade Unions
17. Auditor -General

File No. UGC/ CGEE/ PO_D-01